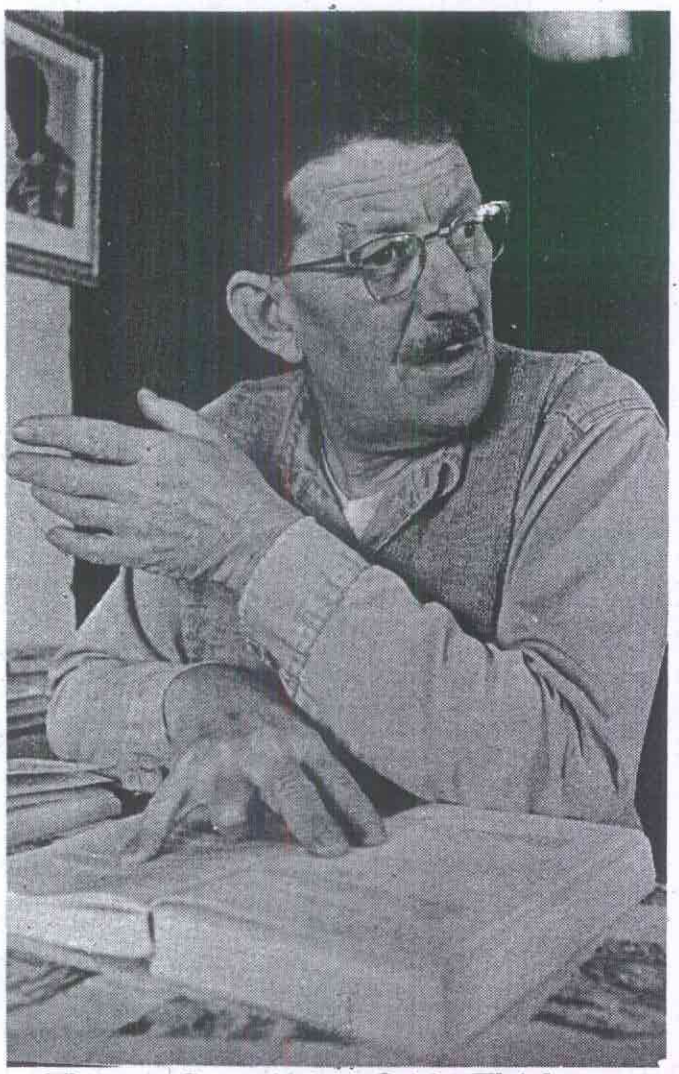

Warren Commission Critic Weisberg

In the Limelight

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'Whitewash' Author Is Man on the Go

Harold Weisberg, Montgomery County's critic of the Warren Commission report, is a man on the go these days.

His pace has picked up steam since he published his second book, "Whitewash II: The FBI-Secret Service Cover-Up," early this month.

Last week he spent four dawn to post-midnight days in New York, followed by a stopover in Philadelphia for a four-hour radio broadcast.

This week he's off and running again on a week-long trip through the mid-west and on to the West Coast. Stops include Chicago, Ill., Madison, Wisc., San Francisco, Calif. and Los Angeles, Calif.

Weisberg's original book, "Whitewash: The Report on the Warren Report," was one of the first in the current rash of attacks on the commission and placed him in the international spotlight.

Cross Country

Since the first book was published in a general edition in May 1966, Weisberg has traveled across the country and appeared on national television programs as well as audience participation radio shows in California, Ohio, Illinois and Pennsylvania.

He is confident his follow-up to the first volume will help sharpen the criticism of the Warren Commission and the aftermath of the Kennedy assassination.

"My second book brings this to a new point," he said last week at Coq d'Or, the Hyattstown farm where he once raised geese. "It may sound immodest but this dates everyone's work except my own.

"The turning point in this whole thing was my appearance on a television show in New York in July," declared Weisberg, puffing on a cigarillo and squinting behind silver rimmed glasses.

"Four lawyers were lying in wait to tear me up. It was rough. It took me an hour and a half to teach them silence is golden," he laughed. "The sparks really flew.

Credibility Basis

"But that show laid the basis for credibility. It opened the eyes of the most influential minds in New York. People realized that those who say something is wrong are really seeking the sanctity of our

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Weisberg

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society. Total unknowns are saying we must have the truth."

Weisberg attributes his success as a critic to "a rugged refusal to do anything but face reality and deal with nothing but fact. I'm the only one who's dealt extensively with the commission's findings," he added.

Convinced his first book "couldn't wait" until a publisher could be found to put it out, Weisberg financed the operation himself.

To date 22,500 books have been printed in four editions and Dell Publishing Co. has just come out with a paperback edition guaranteeing a minimum of one-quarter million on the first printing.

"Whitewash II" had 10,000 printed in the first edition, copies of which are being distributed to stores and individuals.

"A lot of people wrote ages ago and asked us to send the next book as soon as it was out," Weisberg explained. He estimated he has received over 3000 letters.

Many fans already are in line for the third book, "Whitewash III: The Archive," which is in the works, Weisberg added.

His current trip across the country is in the usual whirlwind fashion. The agenda is crowded with television and radio appearances, press conferences, speeches, seminars, bull sessions, autographing sessions and meetings with wholesalers.

"One morning I'm supposed to do a 5:30 TV appearance after a 3 a.m. radio show," Weisberg declared. "Can you imagine such a schedule? But I'll do it, too."

Interest Abroad

Weisberg is concentrating on the international as well as the national interest in the Kennedy assasination.

His first book is being distributed throughout the English-speaking world in the Dell edition.

It has been serialized in "Arriba," a newspaper in Madrid, Spain, and "Panorama," a large German magazine. An Italian publishing company has contracted for the book and is coming out with an Italian edition next month, Weisberg said.

Weisberg is satisfied that his doubts about the Warren Commission finally are reaching people. In addition he is delighted with the many new friends he has made through his books.

"Lil (his wife) and I have so many new friends now," he smiled, rubbing his close-cropped brown hair. "So many people have written us.

"People are wonderful," Weisberg declared. "At every point along the way there's been someone there waiting with a hand outstretched to help. People want to be helpful and that's what counts."